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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/763,012 | 02/15/2001 | Yuko Iijima | 7246/61720 | 1375 |

7590 03/04/2005

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| EXAMINER |
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TON, ANTHONY T

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2661

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/763,012

Applicant(s)

IIJIMA ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony T Ton

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because **Figure 1** fails to show the reference “**BS**” for a serial interface bus **BS** as described in page 6 line 21 and all subsequences in the specification.

Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d).

2. The drawings are objected to because the reference “**LINK NG**” in **Fig. 5** is not associated with the reference “**i.LINK NG**” as described in page 13 line 24 and all subsequences in the specification.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tokura et al.* (US Patent No. 6,654,353) hereinafter referred to as *Tokura*, in view of *Kawai* (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2001/0012383 A1).

a) **In Regarding to Claim 1:** *Tokura* disclosed an electronic an apparatus which is connected to another apparatus by a digital communication bus and performs transmission and reception of data through said digital communication bus (*see abstract and Fig.1*), comprising:
a control unit for controlling the operation of a display unit (*see Fig.1: block 1*), wherein said control unit detects whether said another apparatus and said digital communication bus are connected so as to form a loop or not (*see col.3 lines 19-25 and 61-64*), and
said control unit detects whether said another apparatus and said digital communication bus are connected so as to form a loop or not by discriminating processes which are executed after a bus reset was generated have been finished within a predetermined period (*see Fig.3: steps S2-S4*).

Tokura fails explicitly disclose a display unit and said control unit allows said display unit to perform a warning display.

Kawai explicitly discloses such a display unit and said control unit allows said display unit to perform a warning display (*see Figs.2, 4A and 4B: LCD Monitor and Printer Warning*)

At the time of the invention, it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine such a display unit and said control unit allows said display unit to perform a warning display, as taught by *Kawai* with *Tokura*, so that a unwanted connection/disconnection or a loop between communication devices in a electronic system can be easily viewed by a user. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide unique transmission paths to electronic devices in an inter-connecting system because the switch B1 or B2 in Node B at the step S7 in Fig.3 of *Tokura* can be replaced by the LCD monitor of *Kawai* to display a warning when a result of a detection indicates that the devices are connected so as to form said loop. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine *Kawai* with *Tokura* the invention as specified in the claim.

b) In Regarding to Claim 2: *Tokura* further disclosed each apparatus includes at least two bus ports (*see ports P1-P4 at Node B in Fig.1*).

c) In Regarding to Claim 3: *Tokura* disclosed all aspect of this claim as set forth in claims 1 and 2; and

Tokura further disclosed when the processes are not finished within the predetermined period, said control unit detects that they are connected so as to form said loop (*see Fig.3, steps S4 and S7*).

Tokura fails explicitly disclose said control unit allows said display unit to perform said warning display.

Kawai explicitly discloses such said control unit allows said display unit to perform said warning display (*see Para. [0183]*)

At the time of the invention, it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine such said control unit allows said display unit to perform said warning display, as taught by *Kawai* with *Tokura*, so that functioning of connection process can be improved. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide an enhancement to *Tokura* and reduce the time of testing and detecting processes. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine *Kawai* with *Tokura* the invention as specified in the claim.

d) **In Regarding to Claim 4:** *Tokura* further disclosed when the processes are finished within the predetermined period, said control unit detects that they are not connected so as to form said loop and does not allow said display unit to perform said warning display (*see Fig.3 steps S4-S6, and S9-S10*).

e) **In Regarding to Claim 5:** *Tokura* further disclosed said digital communication bus is an IEEE1394 serial bus (*see col.1 lines 14-17*).

f) **In Regarding to Claims 6-10:** these claims are rejected for the same reasons as Claims 1-5, respectively because the apparatus in Claims 1-5 can be used to practice the method steps of Claims 6-10, respectively.

g) **In Regarding to Claims 11-15:** the claimed subject matters of these claims 11-15 are similar to that of claims 1-5, respectively, except for a display unit as set forth in the claims 1-5. Therefore, the rejection to the claims 1-5 would apply to reject these claims, respectively.

h) **In Regarding to Claims 16-20:** these claims are rejected for the same reasons as Claims 11-15, respectively because the apparatus in Claims 11-15 can be used to practice the method steps of Claims 16-20, respectively.

Response to Remarks

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to amended claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In order to response properly to the independent amended claims, the Examiner decides to add a new reference, *Tokura et al.* (US Patent No. 6,654,353), which is a new discovered reference. Therefore, new ground(s) rejections are applied as set forth in the Office Action.

6. **A NOTE for Claims 2, 7, 12 and 17:** These claims have been amended on 10/04/2004. However, all subject matters of the original claims, which are deleted by the Applicants, are not included in these amended claims. For a record, these deleted subject matters should be maintained in these amended claims in the deletion format of a claim. See 37 CFR 1.121 in MPEP.

Conclusion


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Anthony T Ton** whose telephone number is **571-272-3076**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

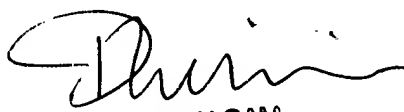
Art Unit: 2661

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Chau Nguyen** can be reached on **571-272-3126**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully submitted,

by: 
Anthony T. Ton
Patent Examiner
February 24, 2005


PHIRIN SAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER